

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7758
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01699

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC, US, UK

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS BY THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE

REF: EC BRUSSELS 746

1. ACCORDING TO ROBIN ALLOTT (ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY), THE EC ARTICLE 113
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COMMITTEE DECIDED AT ITS MEETING ON FEBRUARY 4-5 TO

BEGIN ASSISTING THE COMMISSION IN THE PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS FOR DETAILED MANDATES FOR THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. THE COMMISSION INTENDS TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO THE COUNCIL IN MARCH, ACCORDING TO ALLOTT.

2. THE BRITISH WANT TO AVOID A SITUATION IN WHICH THE COMMISSION SPRINGS FULLY-DEVELOPED PROPOSALS ON THE MEMBER STATES AS IT DID, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE CASE OF THE GLOBAL APPROACH TO THE MTN ADOPTED LAST YEAR. THE UK HAS BEEN PRESSING FOR A PROCEDURE THAT WOULD ENABLE THE MEMBER STATES TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS WHILE THE PROPOSALS ARE STILL IN THE FORMATIVE STAGE WITHIN THE COMMISSION. THE COMMUNITY HAS NOW DECIDED THAT GROUPS OF MEMBER STATE EXPERTS, MEETING UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE 113 COMMITTEE (AND NOT IN THE MORE FORMAL EC PERMREP FRAMEWORK), WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH COMMISSION OFFICIALS OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSED NEGOTIATING MANDATES FOR THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE MTN (TARIFFS, NTBS, SAFEGUARDS, AGRICULTURE AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS).

3. WE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR THE US AND THE COMMUNITY TO KEEP CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION OPEN WHILE WE WERE BOTH BEGINNING TO WORK OUT OUR NEGOTIATING POSITIONS FOR THE MTN. ALLOTT AGREED. WHILE FORMAL CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE RESISTED BY THE FRENCH AND PROBABLY OTHERS, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR VALUABLE INFORMAL TALKS TO TAKE PLACE "IN THE CORRIDORS" OF MEETINGS OF THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE IN GENEVA.

4. ALLOTT TOLD US OF THE LINE THE FRENCH TOOK AT THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE MEETING, QUESTIONING THE CONTINUED RELEVANCE OF THE MTN (REFTL). THE BRITISH CONSIDER THIS TO BE A FAMILIAR FRENCH TACTIC. BY THREATENING NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN SOMETHING THE OTHER MEMBER STATES WANT TO DO, THE FRENCH GET CONCESSIONS FROM THE OTHERS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF COMMUNITY POSITIONS. ALLOTT IS AT LEAST ENCOURAGED THAT THE FRENCH HAVE GONE ALONG WITH A PROCEDURE FOR PREPARING THE COMMISSION'S CONFIDENTIAL

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NEGOTIATING MANDATES. ANNENBERG

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NNN

Message Attributes

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